

At the helm in the federally funded programs

During the past year, we've bid a fond farewell to several key administrators in the federally funded adult education programs. With much gratitude for their service and many successes, we wish them the best as they navigate into retirement. Currently heading Nevada's Adult Literacy and Language Programs are:

Tim McDonald	CALL (Las Vegas-Clark Cty Library Dist.)	http://lvccld.org/cardsservices/call.cfm
Nita Russell-Latham	Catholic Charities of Southern Nevada	http://www.catholiccharities.com/
TBD (in recruitment)	College of Southern Nevada	http://sites.csn.edu/workforce/adultliteracy.asp
Lynn Austin	Community Multicultural Center	http://www.cmclv.org/
Meachell LaSalle Walsh	Great Basin College	http://www.gbcnv.edu/alc/
Susan Robinson	Northern Nevada Literacy Council	http://nnlc.org/
Cynthia Pierrott	Truckee Meadows Community College	http://www.tmcc.edu/abe/
Angela Andrade-Holt	Western Nevada College	http://www.wnc.edu/student-services/alal/

See <http://nvedu.org/abepprograms> for contact information for these programs and for Claudia Bianca and Sharyn Yanoshak, who continue to support administrators and teachers throughout the state.

Data Guru Ken Zutter (kzutter@doe.nv.gov), Adult Education Programs Supervisor Brad Deeds (bdeeds@doe.nv.gov), and Career, Technical, and Adult Education Director Mike Raponi (mraponi@doe.nv.gov) continue to steer the ship from the State Office (775/687-7287).



GBC super-stars

The ABE/ESL/GED program at Great Basin College (<http://www.gbcnv.edu/alc/>) recently awarded its first \$500 college scholarships to two longtime ESL students. Lucy Mejia and Nora Cervantes, shown at left flanked by teachers Tana Doerr and Jeanine Hoskins, will begin college-level courses in the fall.

"We plan to offer this scholarship opportunity every semester, as long as our collaborative funding exists," said Program Director Meachell LaSalle Walsh (meachell.walsh@gbcnv.edu, 775/753-2109).



Join the GED® 2002 closeout campaign

For 70 years, adult educators and GED Testing Service® have worked together to provide a bridge of opportunity for adult learners without a high school diploma. On January 2, 2014, GEDTS will unveil a new assessment that ensures the GED® testing program is no longer an endpoint for adults, but a springboard for more education, training, and better-paying jobs. Reflecting the first major changes since 2002, the new test will align with the new Common Core State Standards curricula adopted by Nevada and most other states and will be administered only by computer at Official GED Testing Center™ locations.

When the current version (the 2002 Series GED® Test) expires, any incomplete scores will expire, also. Test-takers who pass some, but not all, of the 2002 Series GED® Test will have to start over. Visit <http://www.gedtestingservice.com/educators/closeout> for materials to help with notifying adult learners about the change and how it could affect them.

Updates are posted at www.gedtestingservice.com. For Nevada-specific information, call 775/687-7294 or email jwoodward@doe.nv.gov.

Computer-based testing works!

GEDTS analyzed more than 40,000 computerized GED® tests delivered across 40 states and the District of Columbia and found that adults who tested on computer:

- **had an 88 percent pass rate compared to 71 percent for those who tested on paper**
- **completed their exams in five and one-half hours compared to about eight hours on paper**
- **were 59 percent more likely to retake a failed test instead of giving up and dropping out of the testing program**

Preparing online for GED® completion

Excerpted from “Online Preparation for High School Equivalency and College Readiness,” David J. Rosen, Ed.D., *Journal of Research and Practice for Adult Literacy, Secondary, and Basic Education*, Winter 2012/Spring 2013, pp. 185-188.

Editor’s note: David Rosen’s presentation, “21st Century Skills: Free Instructional Websites,” scored highest of all at COABE’s 2013 conference. He edits the “Web Scan” column for the Journal. Visit www.coabe.org, click on “Journal” to subscribe.

For some students, an online GED® preparation program may be useful. Although all the online GED® options reviewed here are legitimate and widely used by learners in many states, there are more that were not included because of limitations in space or because they are only available in a single state.

Sadly, there are also online GED® preparation programs that promise an “online GED® diploma” or certificate that are shams. This past year, the GED Testing Service® (GEDTS) began lawsuits to close down as many of these as possible. If you discover a site that you think is a sham, contact the GEDTS.

✓ **GED Academy** www.passged.com/educators/teacher-resources.php: Available on the web anywhere in the U.S. and also as standalone software on local and wide area networks, this is a blended learning or distance learning ABE, Pre-GED® and GED® preparation system. It acts as a personal tutor that

includes individualized learning plans, customized instruction, and an assessment system. It claims to be “especially appropriate for students with learning disabilities and English Language Learners.”

- ✓ **Townsend Press Learning Center** www.townsendpress.net: Townsend Press, a commercial publisher of educational materials, has a free online reading and writing skills Learning Center that accompanies their textbooks and includes resources for building vocabulary, college reading skills, and grammar. The Learning Center offers diagnostic reading tests, online exercises and tests, PowerPoint presentations, audiobooks, electronic teacher guides, and a class management system.
- ✓ **Steck-Vaughn/Houghton Mifflin Harcourt (HMH) Skills Tutor** www.skillstutor.com/hmh/site/skillstutor/: Designed for children but also used by adults, the Skills Tutor offers “differentiated instruction and intervention for the classroom.” The GED® preparation module includes numerous activities tailored to the Language Arts, Reading Comprehension, and Math subject areas and the program’s availability on mobile devices promotes “true anytime/anywhere learning.”
- ✓ **McGraw Hill Contemporary Interactive** www.mhonline.com/program/view/6/35/1945/0072503289/: This site boasts a total of 119 lessons that address all five content areas. Resources include: “half-length pre-

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Summer school is in session — and it's free!

By Gary Lyon, Business Process Analyst II, glyon@admin.nv.gov, 775/687-9063

Professional development is a never-ending challenge but getting time to attend classroom-based courses can be very difficult. A growing solution to this problem is through online courses offered from a variety of sources, and a great free source is NVeLEARN, the State of Nevada Online Professional Development System (<http://nvelearn.nv.gov>).

NVeLEARN is an “open” system — anyone can create an account by registering on NVAPPS (<http://nvapps.state.nv.us>), the State’s job application system. Once you have registered on NVAPPS, the same user ID and password can be used to create an account on the NVeLEARN e-learning system. Instructions for creating an account are provided on the home page.

More than 200 online courses are currently available on NVeLEARN from a variety of State of Nevada and external agencies. While some courses are targeted for State of Nevada employees, many may be enrolled in and completed by anyone with an account on the system. Some examples of open-enrollment courses available on the system include continuous



State of Nevada
Online Professional Development Center

improvement, strategically planning training and measuring results, anger management, assertiveness and self confidence, body language, business ethics, coaching and mentoring, communication strategies, conflict resolution, creative problem solving, critical thinking, emotional intelligence, generation gap, interpersonal skills, job search skills, public speaking, stress management, time management, and workplace diversity.

Access to NVeLEARN is open 24x7x365, making it possible to keep up with your professional development requirements from the convenience of any computer or mobile device with access to the Internet. New courses are always under development, so it is important to check the course listing often!

Direct questions about the system to the system administrator (ellearn@admin.nv.gov, 775/687-9063).



**DIGITAL PUBLIC LIBRARY
OF AMERICA**

Digital library open 24/7

Following two-and-a-half years of planning, the beta version of the discovery portal of the Digital Public Library of America (<http://dp.la>) launched in April. It contains some 2.4 million records of materials found in American archives, libraries, museums, and cultural heritage institutions for use by students, teachers, scholars, and the public.

DPLA is the first public online-only library in the United States — a free, open-source resource that makes digital collections and archives from American institutions available in one place and freely available to the world. The portal provides innovative ways to search and scan through the united collection of millions of items, including by timeline, map, format, and topic. Check it out!

Affordable Care Act: resources for the uninsured

The Affordable Care Act has a primary goal of helping those who are uninsured and eligible to get affordable, quality health care. To do this, the Health Insurance Marketplace has been formed to help eligible Americans get information and buy health insurance when open enrollment begins on Oct. 1, 2013. Go to marketplace.cms.gov to find tools, information, and resources. They include a [schedule](#) of webinars about the Affordable Care Act, the Marketplace, and available exchanges.



Online GED *(Continued from page 2)*

tests, full-length post-tests, interactive lessons, American and World history timelines, video tutor, customizable prescriptions, and Internet resources.”

- ✓ **PLATO® Online Learning Solution** www.plato.com/: As one of the first and possibly the most comprehensive online learning systems, PLATO offers online, blended, and both web-based and stand-alone instruction. Although it is geared more for K-12 and higher education, it is used by some adult education programs. PLATO does not have a specific GED® preparation program; however, it does list Adult Basic Education as one of the solutions that the learning system addresses.

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Key upcoming conferences

Transitions and pathways



More than 125 breakout sessions and a variety of preconference workshops are already scheduled for the National Career Pathways Network (NCPN) Conference October 13-15 in San Antonio, TX.

NCPN is a membership organization for educators and employers involved in the advancement of career pathways, CTE, and related education reform initiatives. It is part of the Center for Occupational Research and Development (CORD, www.cord.org). Visit www.ncpn.info for information.



Registration is open for the National College Transition Network's seventh annual Effective Transitions in Adult Education Conference to be held November 13-15 in Providence, RI.

NCTN supports adult education staff, programs, states, and regional and municipal agencies in establishing and strengthening college transition services through technical assistance, professional development, collegial sharing, advocacy, and publications that focus on the needs of the field. Information at www.collegetransition.org.

Climb Capitol Hill at USCAL 2013

Building on the momentum from USCAL 2011, World Education and 30 other organizations are partnering with ProLiteracy to produce the U.S. Conference on Adult Literacy October 31-November 2 in Washington, D.C.

The Conference includes more than 120 workshops on adult learner leadership, international adult literacy, advocacy, collaborations, English language learning and immigration, instruction, professional development and training, program leadership and management, social justice, fundraising, and technology. USCAL also includes six featured sessions covering immigration, fundraising, the GED® test, digital literacy, collaborations, and advocacy and public policy.

Capitol Hill Day takes place starting at 12:30 on October 31. Participants will inform congressional leaders about the interconnectivity of adult literacy and the economy, children's education, and public health. This is a separate, contiguous event that is supported financially by ProLiteracy. The \$10 registration fee includes lunch and advocacy training. Visit <http://www.proliteracy.org/uscal> for the latest information.

